

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0173

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3 JANUARY 6

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO SAIGON JAN 6, H/W
REPEATED TO YOU. QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0014

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3 - JANUARY 6

1. MR-3 HQS REGARDS THE SITUATION IN BOTH THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE
CAPITAL AND ON NUI BA DEN AS CRITICAL. THE PHUOC LONG CAPITAL
CONTINUED TO SUSTAIN HEAVY BOMBARDMENT AND THE UNIT ATOP NUI BA DEN
ENTERED ITS FIFTH DAY WITHOUT FOOD AS VNAF AGAIN FAILED TO EFFECT
RESUPPLY. HOAI DUC IS REPORTEDLY RELATIVELY QUIET.

2. PHUOC LONG. RVNAF DEFENDERS CONTINUE TO CLING TO THE NORTHERN
HALF OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL BUT ARE TAKING A HEAVY
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BEATING FROM NVA ARTILLERY LOCATED ON NUI BA RA WHICH IS FIRING

"OBSERVED FIRE" ONTO THEIR POSITIONS. A MINIMUM OF 1,000 ROUNDS WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE DEFENDERS ON JANUARY 6. PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE MAINTAINED COMMUNICATIONS ONLY THROUGH THE L-19 OBSERVER PLANE OVERHEAD AND BY THE RADIO OF THE 81ST AIRBORNE ELEMENTS OPERATING IN THE CAPITAL. VNAF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT ARE REPORTED TO HAVE FLOWN 106 STRIKES ON JANUARY 5 AND UP TO 86 STRIKES ON JANUARY 6 (AS OF 1700 HOURS) IN DEFENSE OF THIS BELEAGUERED GVN POSITION.

3. TAY NINH. FORTY OF THE 90 RVNAF FORCES ATOP NUI BA DEN HAVE REPORTEDLY DESERTED THEIR POSITION AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT MANY OF THE REMAINING 50 WHO HAVE BEEN WITHOUT FOOD FOR FIVE DAYS WILL BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ANY SERIOUS NVA ATTACK. VNAF CHOPPER EFFORTS DURING THE MORNING OF JANUARY 6 WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AT RESUPPLY AND ONE A-37 AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED LOST OF NUI BA DEN. PROVINCIAL REPORTS CLAIM THE PLANE WAS DOWNED BY SA-7 BUT MR-3 CARRIES THE PLANE AS LOST BY COMMUNIST AA. THE PILOT IS REPORTED TO HAVE EJECTED SAFELY. NVA ARTILLERY HAS STEPPED UP THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF OUTPOSTS AROUND TAY NINH CITY AND THE CITY ITSELF RECEIVED AN ESTIMATED 100 ROUNDS DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 6. THE PROVINCE CHIEF BELIEVES THESE BATTERIES ARE EITHER 85MM OR 122MM. MR-3 HQS EXPECTS THAT THIS ACTIVITY MAY WELL BE THE BEGINNING OF PHASE TWO OF THE COMMUNIST DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN IN TAY NINH.

4. BINH TUY. MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET IN HOAI DUC DISTRICT WITH ONLY MINOR PROBES AND SHELLINGS. MR-3 HQS BELIEVES THAT NVA FORCES ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE FOLLOWING THE INSERTION OF HOAI DUC DISTRICT SECTOR OF THE 2ND BN OF THE 43RD REGT IN SUPPORT OF THE 1ST BN OF THE 43RD REGT AND OTHER TERRITORIAL UNITS. LAHIGUERA
UNQTE
MARTIN

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